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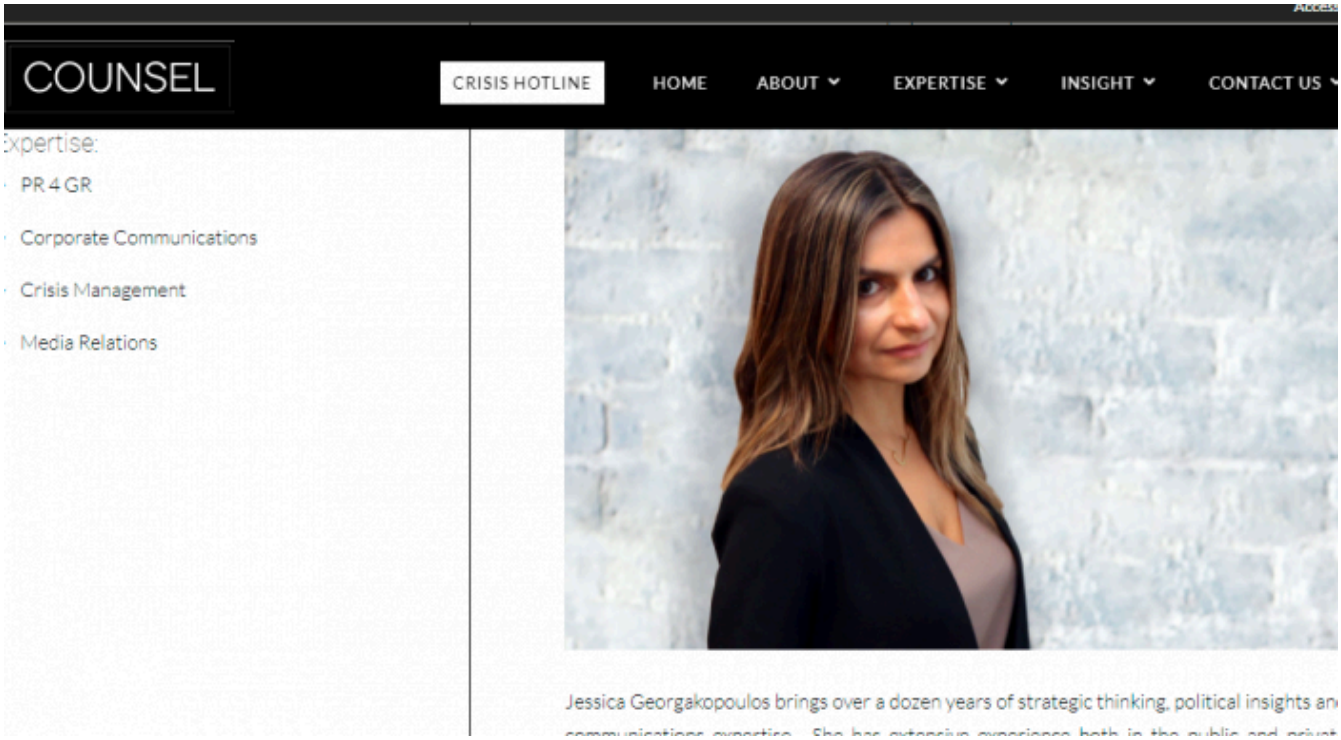
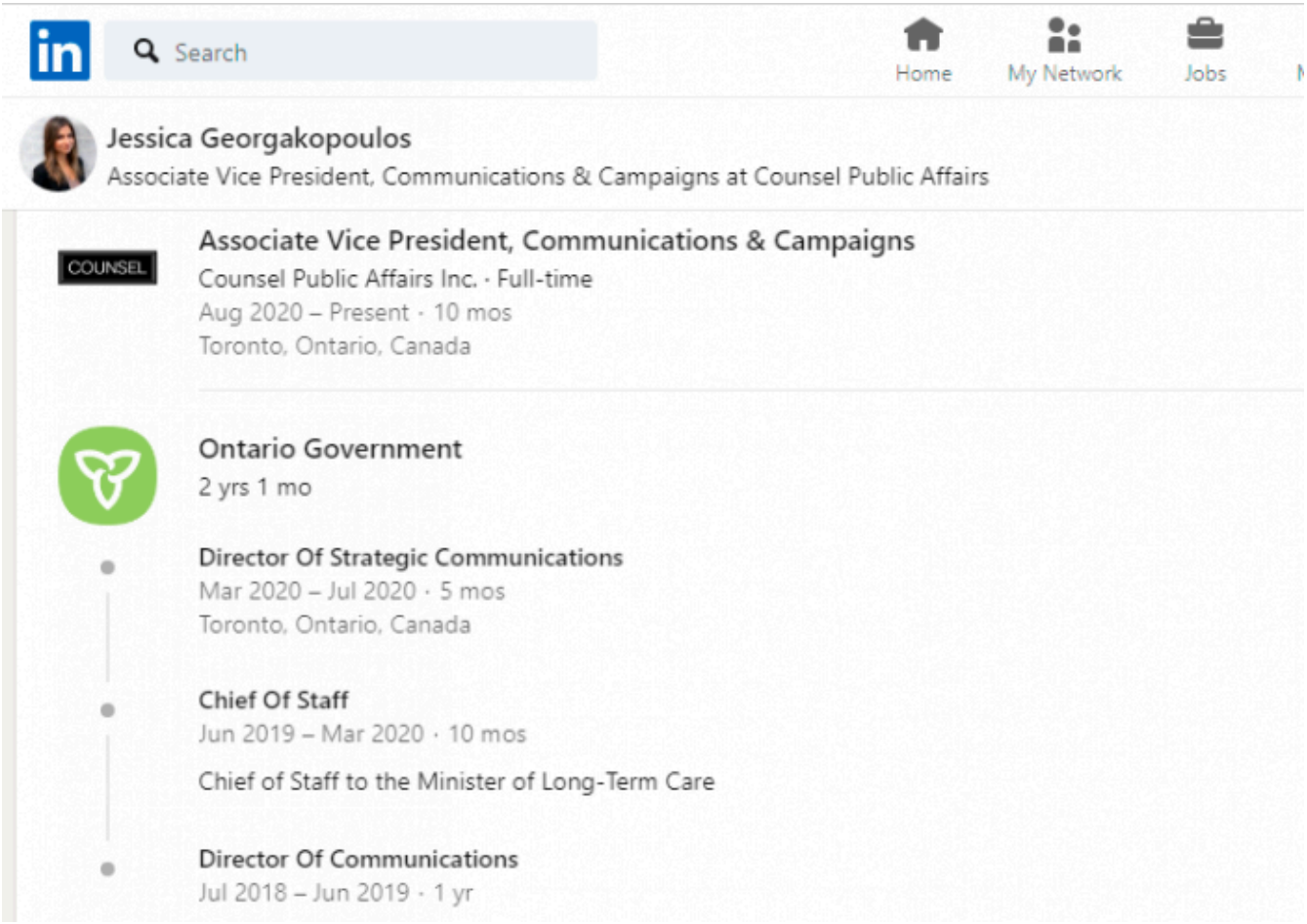
MAY 17, 2021 BY RONNIE

Doug Ford’s Covid-19 Communications Director Now A Pharma Lobbyist Pushing Vaccines; Counsel Public Affairs

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Jessica Georgakopoulos
Associate Vice President, Communications & Campaigns at Counsel Public Affairs
COUNSEL
Associate Vice President, Communications & Campaigns
Counsel Public Affairs Inc. · Full-time
Aug 2020 – Present · 10 mos
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Ontario Government
2 yrs 1 mo
Director Of Strategic Communications
Mar 2020 – Jul 2020 · 5 mos
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
Chief Of Staff
Jun 2019 – Mar 2020 · 10 mos
Chief of Staff to the Minister of Long-Term Care
Director Of Communications
Jul 2018 – Jun 2019 · 1 yr

Lobbyist	Last Amendment Date	Client Name	Company/Organization
Rob Gilmour	05/11/2021	Impact Auto Auctions Ltd.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Caroline Pinto	05/11/2021	Impact Auto Auctions Ltd.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Jessica Georgakopoulos	05/05/2021	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Caroline Pinto	05/04/2021	GlaxoSmithKline Inc.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.

Few things are as disgusting as when lobbying and political cronyism cross paths. This is going to focus on Doug Ford, and his operatives working for drug companies. Also, see this piece on Bonnie Henry's Communications Chief.

The lobbying firm relevant here is Counsel Public Affairs. Its members are former (and current) political hacks who use their connections to push for financial benefits for their clients. While it's mandatory to disclose such things, it's rarely in the public interest.

Take Jessica Georgakopoulos, who went (almost overnight) from being a staffer for Doug Ford, to becoming a mouthpiece for GlaxoSmithKline.

> Jessica Georgakopoulos brings over a dozen years of strategic thinking, political insights and communications expertise. She has extensive experience both in the public and private sectors in strategy development, media relations, crisis communications and advocacy campaigns.
>
> .
>
> Immediately prior to joining Counsel, ***Jessica served as the Director of Strategic Communications for the Premier of Ontario*** where she advised on the widely praised ***communications of Ontario's COVID-19 response and managed the integration of government-wide communications*** strategies during the pandemic.
>
> .
>
> Jessica has also served the Ford Government as the ***Chief of Staff to the Minister of Long-Term Care***, leading the development of the government's modernization plan for building long-term care homes. Jessica also worked as ***Director of Communications for Ontario's Minister of Government and Consumer Services.***
>
> .
>
> Jess brings to Counsel a strong network across Canada's political and business media forged through her work as the Director of Communications at the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, her five years in public relations and crisis communication consulting, and serving as ***Press Secretary and Issues Manager to two Federal Cabinet Ministers within the Harper Government***. During her time as a consultant, Jessica worked on high-profile advocacy campaigns and provided crisis communications support for leading organizations.

Immediately prior to joining Counsel Public Affairs, Georgakopoulos worked as Communications Director for Doug Ford, related directly for his Covid-19 public strategies. She now is a lobbyist for pharmaceutical companies like GSK, pushing for vaccines. And in case there is any confusion about the content of the lobbying, the Ontario Registry itself lists the content.

Subject Matter

What is the subject-matter of your lobbying activity?

COVID-19/Pandemic response, Health, Industry, Research and innovation,

Other: Public health

Lobbying Activity

Q: Describe your lobbying goal(s) in detail. What are you attempting to influence or accomplish as a result of your communications with Ontario public office holders?

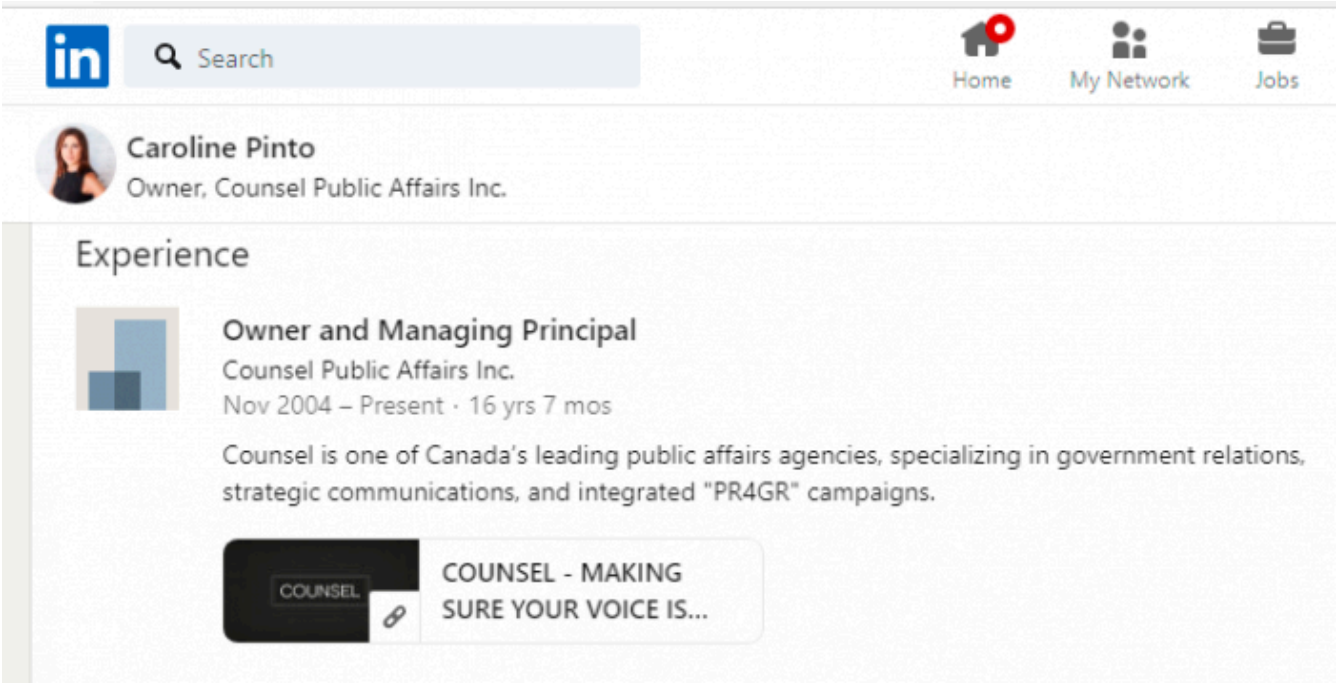
A: Engage with ***provincial government decision-makers*** to educate and raise awareness about ***two new COVID-19 therapeutic treatments under development by GSK (Vir-7831 and Otilimab)***, and encourage Ontario to actively collaborate with the federal government to ***expedite procurement options***, and pursue related implementation matters, to secure an appropriate allocation of such medicines to potentially ***make them available to Canadian patients, prescribers and hospitals***, pending approvals by Health Canada.

In the span of a month, Georgakopoulos went from working with Ford's Government on its "pandemic" response, to trying to convince them to buy drugs related to that response. Does anyone see a problem with any of this?

For more context, both GlaxoSmithKline and Pfizer announced they would launch a joint consumer health care venture. Considering that Pfizer is one of the companies with an interim authorized (not approved) vaccine on the market, lobbying for GSK could be seen as helping them. Again, consider the timing of Georgakopoulos' departure from the Ford Government.

Brad Lavigne and Jean-Marc Prevost were mentioned in the previous piece, along with their ties to Emergent BioSolutions, which makes AstraZeneca, and coziness with Bonnie Henry and Adrian Dix.

As for cronyism and conflicts of interest within Counsel Public Affairs, hold on. It's about to get much, much worse.


Search
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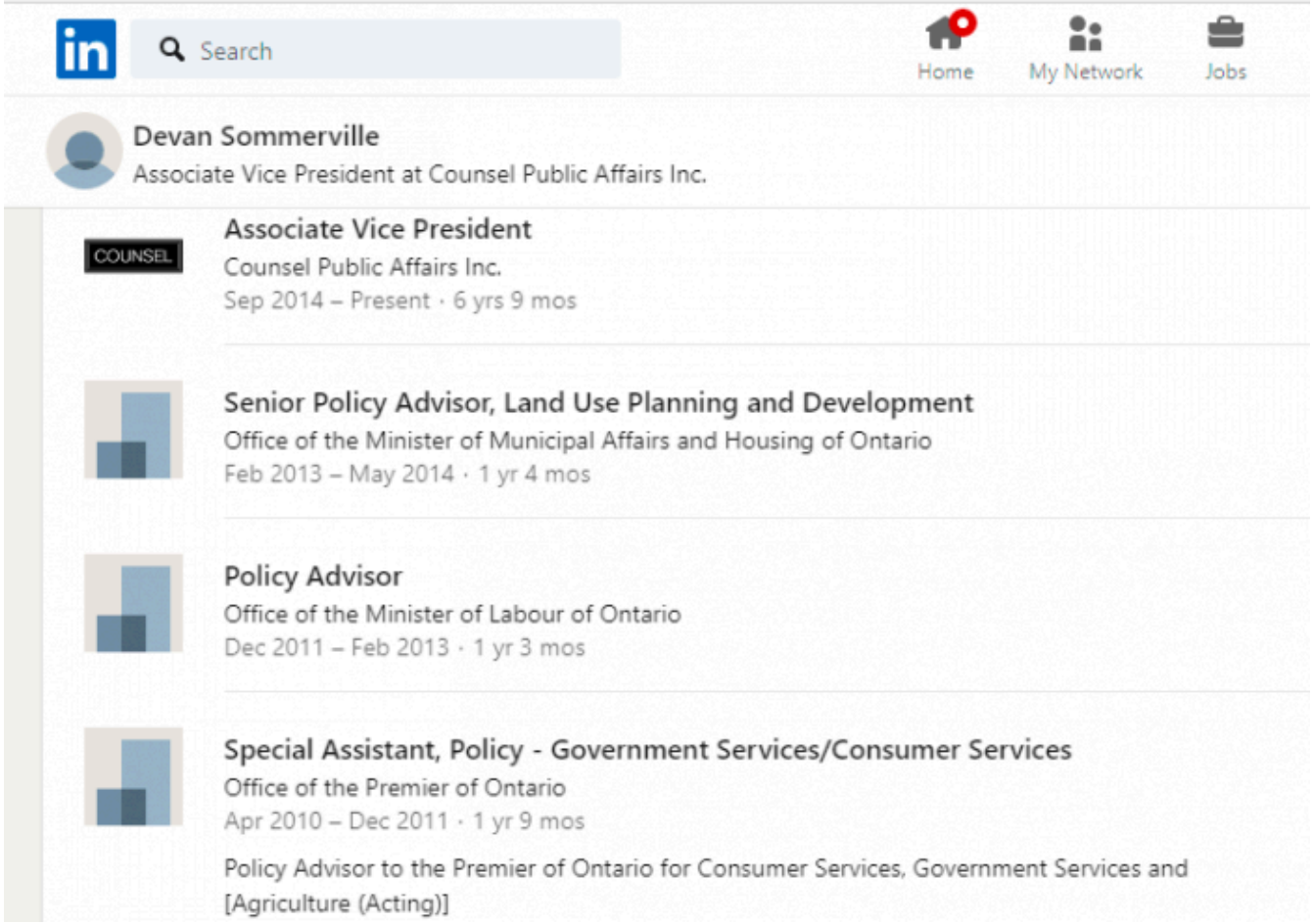
Caroline Pinto
Owner, Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Experience
Owner and Managing Principal
Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Nov 2004 – Present · 16 yrs 7 mos
Counsel is one of Canada's leading public affairs agencies, specializing in government relations, strategic communications, and integrated "PR4GR" campaigns.
COUNSEL
COUNSEL - MAKING SURE YOUR VOICE IS...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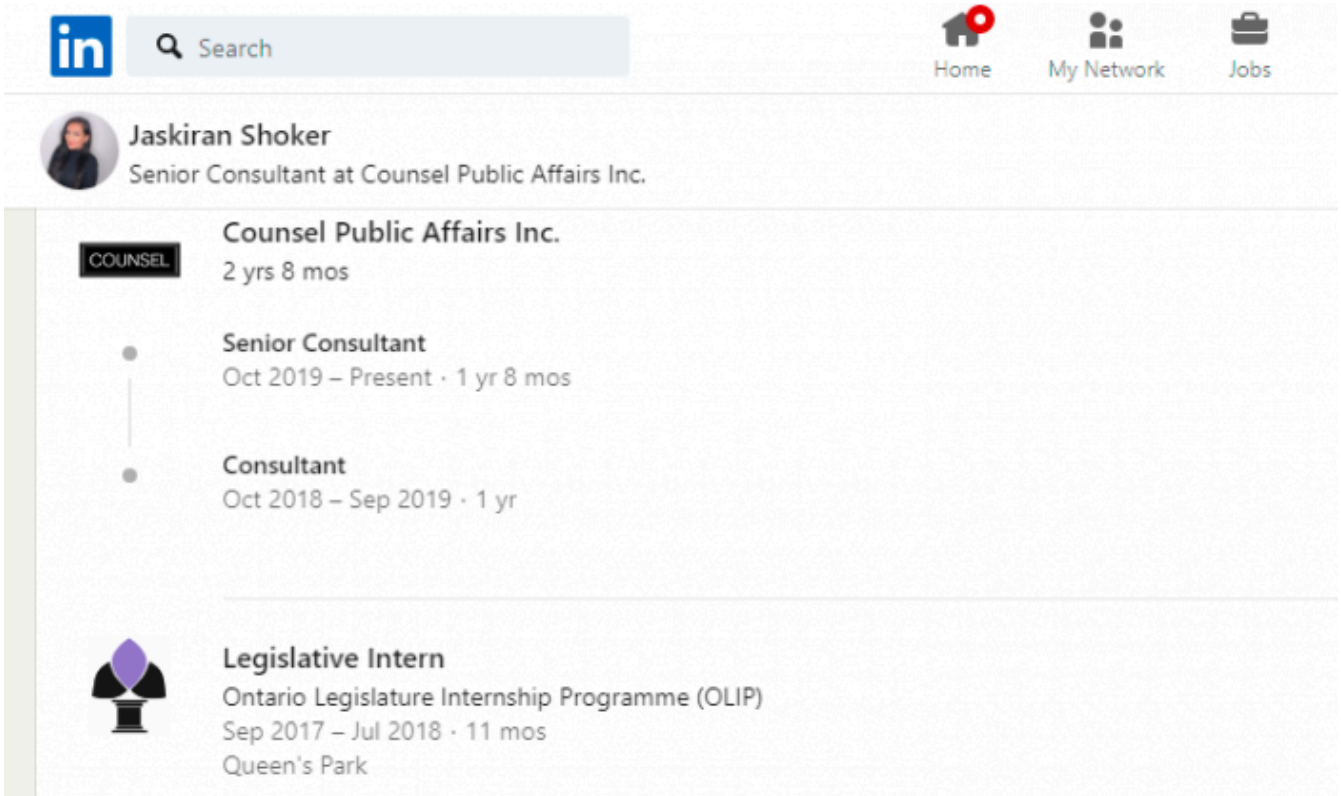
Devan Sommerville
Associate Vice President at Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
COUNSEL
Associate Vice President
Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Sep 2014 – Present · 6 yrs 9 mos
Senior Policy Advisor, Land Use Planning and Development
Office of the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing of Ontario
Feb 2013 – May 2014 · 1 yr 4 mos
Policy Advisor
Office of the Minister of Labour of Ontario
Dec 2011 – Feb 2013 · 1 yr 3 mos
Special Assistant, Policy - Government Services/Consumer Services
Office of the Premier of Ontario
Apr 2010 – Dec 2011 · 1 yr 9 mos
Policy Advisor to the Premier of Ontario for Consumer Services, Government Services and [Agriculture (Acting)]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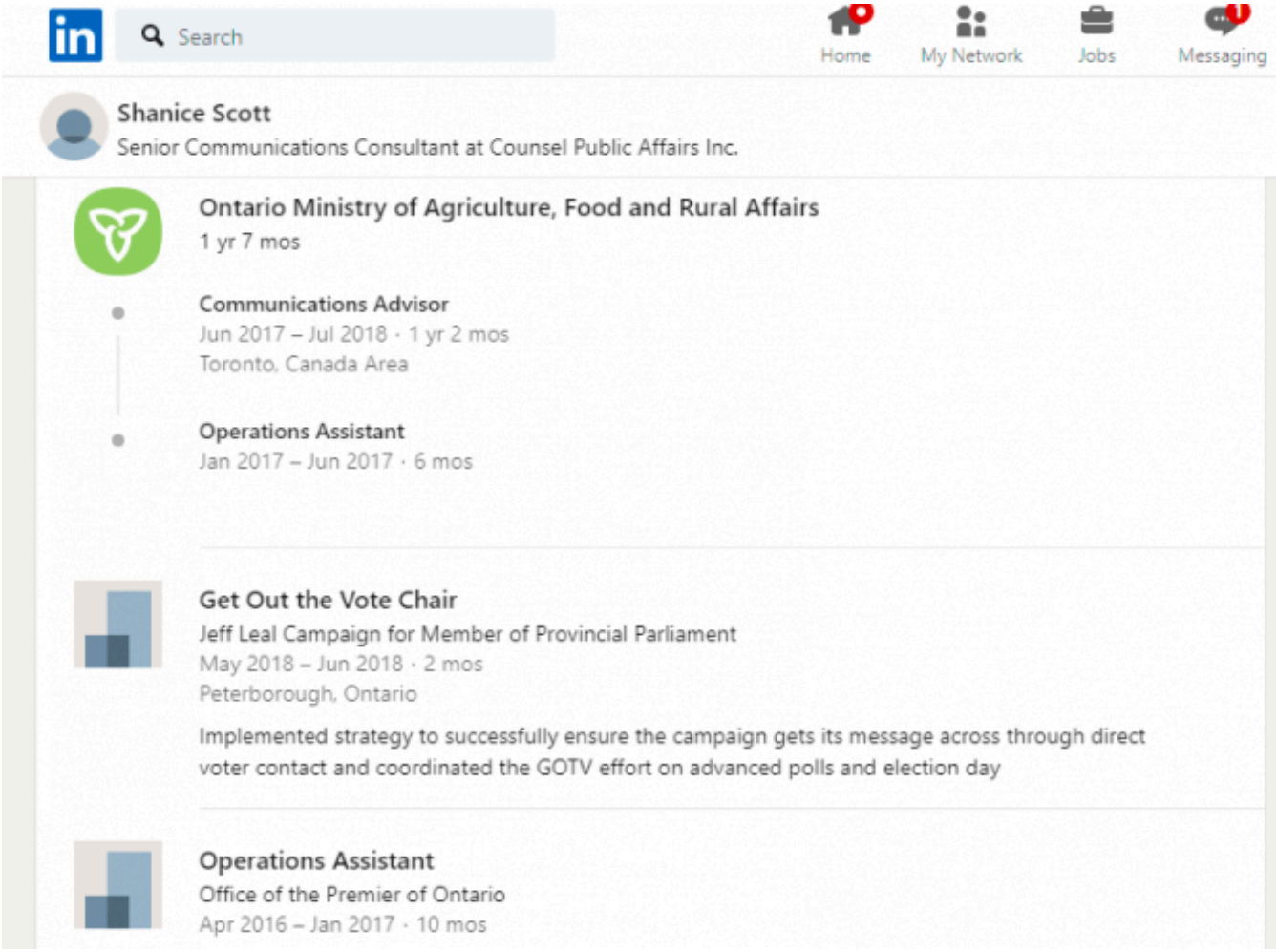
Jaskiran Shoker
Senior Consultant at Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
COUNSEL
Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
2 yrs 8 mos
Senior Consultant
Oct 2019 – Present · 1 yr 8 mos
Consultant
Oct 2018 – Sep 2019 · 1 yr
Legislative Intern
Ontario Legislature Internship Programme (OLIP)
Sep 2017 – Jul 2018 · 11 mos
Queen's Park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Shanice Scott
Senior Communications Consultant at Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
1 yr 7 mos
Communications Advisor
Jun 2017 – Jul 2018 · 1 yr 2 mos
Toronto, Canada Area
Operations Assistant
Jan 2017 – Jun 2017 · 6 mos
Get Out the Vote Chair
Jeff Leal Campaign for Member of Provincial Parliament
May 2018 – Jun 2018 · 2 mos
Peterborough, Ontario
Implemented strategy to successfully ensure the campaign gets its message across through direct voter contact and coordinated the GOTV effort on advanced polls and election day
Operations Assistant
Office of the Premier of Ontario
Apr 2016 – Jan 2017 · 10 mos

Caroline Pinto is also listed as a GSK lobbyist. She is co-Founder of Counsel Public Affairs, and was "policy advisor to the Attorney General of Ontario and Minister Responsible for Native Affairs under the Mike Harris government from 1995 to 1998". Interesting how her ties extend back to the previous ONPC Government.

Devan Sommerville was a policy advisor in the Ontario Liberal Governments of Dalton McGuinty and Kathleen Wynne. Perhaps if Ford gets voted out, Devan will be called in to do the influence peddling.

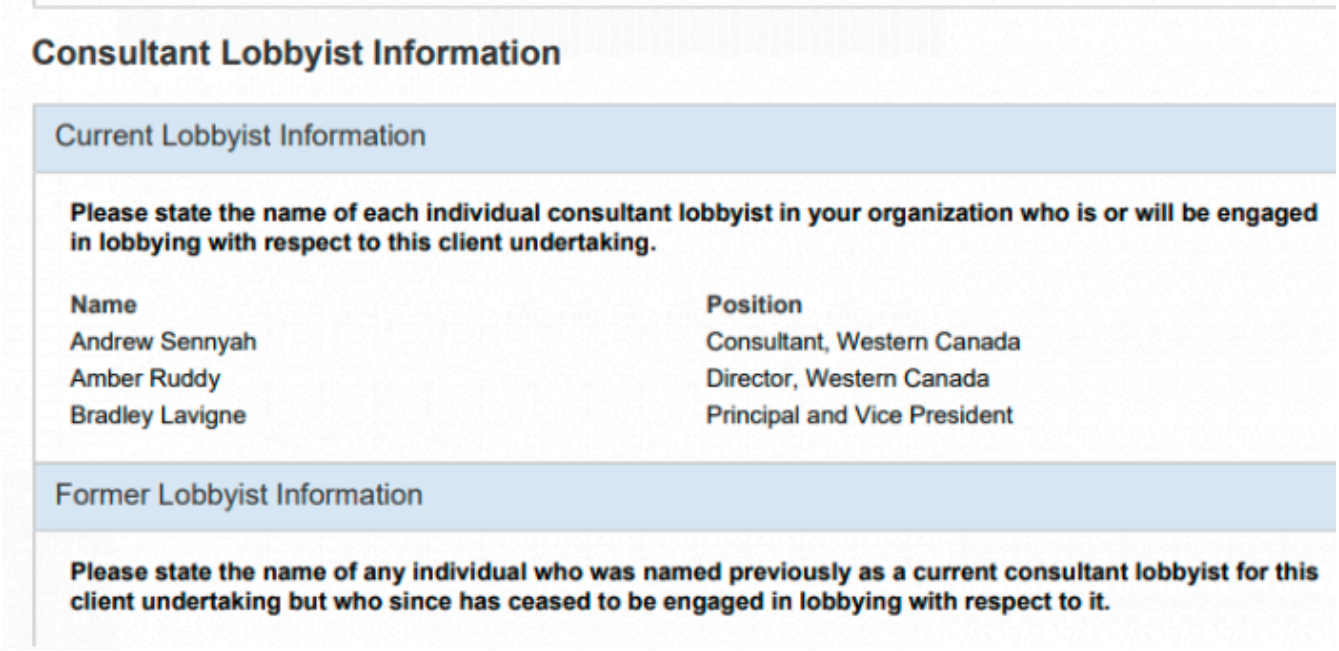
Jaskiran Shoker was an intern in the Ontario Legislature at the tail end of Kathleen Wynne's run as Premier. She then immediately gets into consulting work with Counsel Public Affairs. That must have been quite some educational experience.

Shanice Scott worked in the Premier's Office back when it was run by Kathleen Wynne. Another Liberal Party insider.

Caroline Pinto	04/26/2021	Air Canada Pilots Association	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Caroline Pinto	04/25/2021	Isologic Innovative Radiopharmaceuticals Ltd.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Caroline Pinto	04/25/2021	Medical Pharmacies Group Limited	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Caroline Pinto	04/21/2021	Toyota Canada Inc.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Caroline Pinto	04/21/2021	Ontario Library Association	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Caroline Pinto	04/21/2021	Ontario Research and Innovation Optical Network (ORION)	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Caroline Pinto	04/03/2021	NextEra Canada Development LP	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Caroline Pinto	03/01/2021	Bayer Inc.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.

Devan Sommerville	08/04/2020	Teva Canada Ltd.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Devan Sommerville	07/14/2020	College of Audiologists and Speech Language Pathologists of Ontario	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Devan Sommerville	06/04/2020	Real Estate Equity Exchange, Inc. dba Unison Home Ownership Investors	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Devan Sommerville	04/14/2020	Coast Capital Savings Federal Credit Union	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Devan Sommerville	04/03/2020	Mediagrif Interactive Technologies	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Devan Sommerville	01/27/2020	Long-Term Care Pharmacy Operators Group	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Devan Sommerville	12/23/2019	Teva Canada Ltd.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.

Jaskiran Shoker	03/01/2021	Bayer Inc.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Jaskiran Shoker	04/09/2020	Bayer Inc.	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.
Jaskiran Shoker	01/02/2021	Emergent BioSolutions Canada Inc. (formerly Adapt Pharma Canada Ltd.)	Counsel Public Affairs Inc.



Consultant Lobbyist Information

Current Lobbyist Information

Please state the name of each individual consultant lobbyist in your organization who is or will be engaged in lobbying with respect to this client undertaking.

Name	Position
Andrew Sennyah	Consultant, Western Canada
Amber Ruddy	Director, Western Canada
Bradley Lavigne	Principal and Vice President

Former Lobbyist Information

Please state the name of any individual who was named previously as a current consultant lobbyist for this client undertaking but who since has ceased to be engaged in lobbying with respect to it.

Who is being lobbied on behalf of?

Client:

Emergent BioSolutions Canada Inc.
155 Innovation Drive
Winnipeg, MB, Canada, R3T 5Y3

Business Activities:

Emergent BioSolutions Canada Inc. (formerly Adapt Pharma) is an innovative small business focused on developing cutting-edge treatments for patients with special medical conditions. Their mission is to provide simple, reliable, and accessible therapeutic options, ensuring that patients, and those who care for them, have access to the right treatment at the right time.

Government Funding:
(during fiscal year ending on 2019-12-31)

Of course, the lobbying isn't limited to Ontario. Counsel Public Affairs also lobbied the Alberta Government, trying to push a nasal spray on behalf of Emergent BiolSolutions. As stated earlier, this company is manufacturing AstraZeneca. They've hit Saskatchewan as well.

Yes, this firm has lobbied Federally too

To be clear, this isn't all the lobbying that Counsel Public Affairs does, or even all the pharma lobbying. The point is that this organization is filled with partisan operatives, very connected, and are advocating for it. Jessica Georgakopoulos is a particularly aggregious case, but far from the only one. Parliaments, particularly in Ontario, are compromised by this group.

Also check this previous article from Canuck Law, and this from The Breaker. Both will provide further background into the lobbying issue.

(1) http://lobbyist.oico.on.ca/Pages/Public/PublicSearch/
(2) https://counselpa.com/team/jessica-georgakopoulos/

(3) https://archive.is/7xfg1

(4) https://www.linkedin.com/in/jessica-georgakopoulos-931b5523/

(5) https://archive.is/wip/rM1mb

(6) https://counselpa.com/team/caroline-pinto/

(7) https://www.linkedin.com/in/caroline-pinto-a3050913/

(8) https://archive.is/jMdN5

(9) https://counselpa.com/team/devan-sommerville/

(10) https://archive.is/a7vyt

(11) https://www.linkedin.com/in/devan-sommerville-410a6610/

(12) https://archive.is/tKVXk

(13) https://counselpa.com/team/jaskiran-shoker/

(14) https://archive.is/sGvtx

(15) https://www.linkedin.com/in/jaskiran-shoker/

(16) https://archive.is/4PL1d

(17) https://counselpa.com/team/shanice-scott/

(18) https://archive.is/dYbrr

(19) https://www.linkedin.com/in/shanice-scott/

(20) https://www.albertalobbyistregistry.ca/apex/f?p=171:9996:14348951308401::::CMS_SITE,CMS_PAGE:ABLBY,SRCH_REG

(21) https://archive.is/uwhOU

(22) https://www.albertalobbyistregistry.ca/apex/f?p=171:DOC:0:IDOC_XSL_CACHE:::IDOC_TBL_GRP_ID,IDOC_CNTRL_CD:722007,CNSLT_REG_FRM&cs=3EE72B76AB06C946BCF2F4A13BBE34DC5

(23) Alberta Emergent BioSolutions Lobbying Counsel Pulbic Affairs

(24) https://www.sasklobbyistregistry.ca/search-the-registry/

(25) https://archive.is/jvDuv

(26) https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/app/secure/ocl/lrs/do/advSrch

(27) https://lobbycanada.gc.ca/app/secure/ocl/lrs/do/vwRg?cno=359779&regId=905981

(28) https://canucklaw.ca/bonnie-henrys-ex-mouthpiece-now-bc-pharma-lobbyist-for-emergent-biosolutions-which-makes-az/

CANADA, CORRUPTION, DRUGS/ALCOHOL, GLOBALISM, HEALTH, HUMAN RIGHTS, LOBBYING, NGO/CS, VACCINES

One Reply to "Doug Ford's Covid-19 Communications Director Now A Pharma Lobbyist Pushing Vaccines; Counsel Public Affairs"

Joseph A Gamero

OCTOBER 10, 2021 AT 10:54 AM

No wonder, we are going down the drain. This is built so it cannot succeed! You get in there and you're trapped, How much more money is Doug worth now as opposed to before he became Premier?
Does anyone still work for "we, the people?"